

Fall 2007

SENSORY PROGRAM

Newsletter



What's New with the Sensory Program?

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- ✓ What's New

And more . . .
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5-Year Rules Review

The Arizona Legislature requires all rules to undergo a review every five (5) years. The Sensory Program staff is currently in the rules review process. Beginning early 2008, you can go to http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/index.htm to review the latest draft. We'd appreciate your comments. The process is scheduled to take us through 2008 and be completed by January 2009. 🗣️

Frequently Asked Questions

It's that time of the year again to begin hearing screening for Arizona school children. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

■ What schools are required to provide hearing screenings?

Any educational institution—this includes private, public, preschool, charter or alternative schools.

■ At what ages or grades should students receive a hearing screening?

All students in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1, 2, 6, and 9 are required to receive hearing screenings. Students receiving special education in any grade are screened every year. The school administrator is also responsible to provide a hearing screening for a student if the student, parent, teacher, nurse, psychologist, audiologist, physician, or speech and language pathologist requests it. A student is not screened if the student's parents object in writing to the screening.

■ Who can conduct a hearing screening?

An audiologist may perform a hearing screening or an individual who is not an audiologist may perform a hearing screening only if the individual passes a hearing screening course. See the T³ website at <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/index.php>

■ Is a hearing screening provided by a physician during the student's annual physical examination acceptable according to the Hearing Screening Rules?

Only if the physician provides a puretone audiometer, tympanometer, or otoacoustic emissions screening.

■ How can I get a copy of the Hearing Screening Rules and the current Annual Hearing Screening Report form?

The 2007-2008 Annual Hearing Screening Report form is attached to this newsletter. In addition, copies of both the Hearing Screening Rules and the annual report form can be downloaded and printed from the ADHS/Sensory Program website at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm>

■ When are children required to be screened?

According to the Department of Education, "Identification (screening for possible disabilities) shall be completed within 45 calendar days after: (a) Entry of each preschool or kindergarten student and any student enrolling without appropriate records of screening, evaluation, and progress in school; or (b) Notification to the public education agency by parents of concerns regarding development or educational progress by their child aged 3 years through 21 years." (A.A.C. R7-2-401(D)(5)).

State rules require that if a student does not pass the initial hearing screening, a second hearing screening will be performed no earlier than 30 days and no later than 45 days after the first hearing screening (A.A.C. R9-13-104(B)). 🗣️



Private Schools are a Part of the Legislatively Mandated Family of Schools

What does this mean?

In 1986, the Arizona State Legislature authorized the Arizona Department of Health Services to “develop rules and regulations governing standards, procedures, techniques, and criteria for conducting and administering hearing evaluation services.” In 1993 and again in 2002, the Hearing Screening Rules were revised to include and clarify issues of concern to the legislature and to public health. It was at that time that clear definitions of populations to be screened emerged. The most problematic definitions are in what constitutes a “school” as stated in the Hearing Screening Rules and who is responsible for ensuring students are screened.

A school is defined in the Hearing Screening Rules (in accordance with A.R.S. § 15-101) as an educational institution and includes preschool, kindergarten, accommodation, charter and private schools.

Hearing screening is not “optional” for enrolled students in preschool, kindergarten, grades

1, 2, 6, 9 and special education. The rules state that the “school administrator shall ensure that students have a hearing screening . . .” This places the responsibility on the school, not the families.

It is the school’s responsibility to ensure that students are screened.

In summary, *all schools must provide hearing screenings for each student in the mandated grades*. This does not mean only if parents request it. This does mean that the child will be screened unless the parent refuses it and the refusal is in writing. The school administrator shall also ensure that screenings are conducted by trained screeners using calibrated equipment (see Hearing Screening Rules, <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm>).

If you have questions or need for clarification about the rules, call the ADHS Sensory Program, Virginia James, (602) 364-1446 or Denisa Brown-Perkins, (602) 364-1455. ☎

Things to Remember

■ Equipment calibration dates are required on the Annual Hearing Screening Reports.

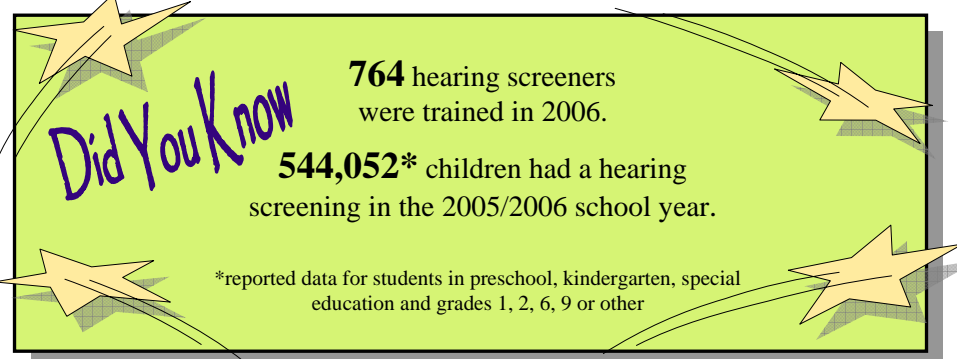
■ Hearing Screening Certificate—ADHS is no longer keeping a database on hearing screeners. In order to ensure our children are screened using the same criteria, it is necessary to include a copy of your T³ training certificate with your report. If you are a T³ trainer, be sure the certificates you are using are the current ADHS certificates provided to trainers in 2006. If trainers are in need of initial or renewal certificates, they can be ordered from Denisa Brown-Perkins at brownpd@azdhs.gov.

■ Due to medical confidentiality, please do not send students’ health records or other documents that have their identifying information. ☎

What’s New with Vision Screening

Current T³ trainers: the next vision screening training for trainers will be held on October 18, 2007 in Tempe. For additional dates in the future, please contact Patty Merk at pmerk@ag.arizona.edu.

If you are a hearing screener and are interested in receiving vision screening training, you may access trainers on the T³ website at <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/index.php>. Keep checking back for new trainers in vision screening. ☎



Did You Know

764 hearing screeners were trained in 2006.

544,052* children had a hearing screening in the 2005/2006 school year.

*reported data for students in preschool, kindergarten, special education and grades 1, 2, 6, 9 or other



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